

THE RITUAL

of

SIGMA
ALPHA
EPSILON
FRATERNITY

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of the
SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON
FRATERNITY

Revised by Authority of the Supreme Council and Approved by the
National Convention of 1968.

No. 55

The Ritual of Sigma Alpha Epsilon has evolved over the years and has been subject to change from time to time. However it sprang primarily from two sources. The first was the Constitution of the Fraternity written by the Founders. Their initiation ceremony consisted mainly of their Constitution and little else. In the current Ritual this work is found virtually intact in the part of the Eminent Recorder as he instructs the neophytes in the requirements of the National Laws.

The second major part of the Ritual was developed in 1910 after a number of attempts to improve it had been made. In this revision the Ritual almost as we know it today was developed. An Opening and Closing Ceremony were included, but the most important item was the adoption of the Crest-of-Arms with all its significance.

In 1947 the songs were officially included although they had been used informally as early as 1920. Also introduced was the office of Eminent Preceptor in the hope of developing an officer who would specialize in the dramatic part of the Ritual.

In 1959 it was felt wise to add to the obligation which was already too long. The solution came in assigning parts of the obligation to the Eminent Recorder and Eminent Chronicler. A Memorial Service, which the Fraternity had not had previously, was also added.

In the current revision emphasis has been placed on bringing the language more up to date and simplifying some procedures. A new Memorial Service and a new Burial Ceremony have also been written.

The interested historian will find a rather complete history of the evolution of the Ritual in the Forewords of previous editions. These have now become too voluminous to be included in the publication but are available in the National Office.

Fraternity

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FORMAL PLEDGING CEREMONY

NOTES:—

- a. The pledging ceremony is to be used for every pledge of the Chapter, whether pledged singly or in a group. Formal pledging should take place at the earliest possible date after informal pledging. Guests should be encouraged to attend.
- b. Formal pledging may be held in the regular Chapter meeting place. A few items of initiation paraphernalia should be displayed and participating officers should wear robes.
- c. The Eminent Archon, Eminent Recorder and Eminent Chronicler are all stationed at a table in the front of the room. The Eminent Herald and Eminent Warden are posted at the entrance door.

The pledges are assembled by the Eminent Herald in a previously determined order in a room near the Chapter room. The Eminent Herald then returns to the Chapter room.

The Eminent Archon raps twice. Members rise. The Eminent Herald leaves the room and leads the column of pledges to the door of the Chapter room. He raps one time upon the door and the Eminent Warden opens it half way. The Eminent Warden then turns and faces the Eminent Archon.

FORMAL PLEDGING CEREMONY

E. A.: Eminent Herald, is all in readiness for the ceremony now to take place?

E. H.: All is in readiness, Eminent Archon.

E. A.: Then I charge you, seek out those who are to be formally pledged to the loyalty and service of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Rap!!

The Eminent Herald leads the pledges slowly into the hall and lines them up before the Eminent Archon. All continue standing.

The pledges should be instructed prior to the ceremony as to the appropriate response.

The Eminent Archon raps once. Members are seated.

I

E. W.: Eminent Archon, (here is the Eminent Herald with _____)
(John Jones, William Brown, Samuel Smith—give names or, if
a very large class, give number) _____ students of
U of M (College or University) who desire to be admitted,
having been honored with a pledge invitation by Mervin Nelson
Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

E. A.: Eminent Warden, you will admit them.

E. A.: We are assembled for the purpose of formally pledging you to Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Before the invitation of pledgeship can be accepted you must bind yourselves to our Noble Order by an obligation which is entirely consistent with the nature of a true man and a gentleman. Before your initiation into our Fraternity may be achieved, you must complete a period of pledgeship which is designed to test your loyalty and enthusiasm; but which contains no improper ordeal or physical peril.

Are you willing to proceed with the ceremony of pledging?

PLEDGES: I am.

Rap I

E. A.: Eminent Recorder, instruct these candidates in the nature of our Order.

E. R.: Your invitation to join ZAR implies above all else that you are a gentleman. Our Fraternity is founded on friendship. To preserve Sigma Alpha Epsilon, it is necessary to admit only those with the traits and qualities of a gentleman, which are so necessary for the perpetuation of the most lasting friendships.

You will live with us in the strongest of fraternal relationships. Therefore, with the adoption of our badge, you also assume the responsibility to preserve our honored name and reputation, both on this campus and in the world outside the walls of our Alma Mater.

To accomplish these aims, we shall expect that your character exhibit those inherent marks of good taste, fairness, good sportsmanship and exemplary conduct which shall stamp you a genuine son of Minerva. In this Chapter and in our Fraternity at large, we have old and binding traditions which guide the individual in his personal conduct and in his relationships with his fellow man. In keeping with these ideals, we give you, in specific terms, one definition of a true gentleman, which it will be your duty to memorize and exemplify as a part of your fraternal obligation.

"THE TRUE GENTLEMAN"

The true gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness, but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feeling of others rather than of his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe.

The Eminent Chronicler displays a copy of THE PHOENIX.

E. R.: Eminent Archon, the candidates are now instructed in the nature of our order.

E. A.: Eminent Chronicler, instruct *these candidates* further in the heritage and traditions of our Fraternity.

E. Ch.: It is often beneficial to reflect upon our aims and ideals, and upon our progress in attaining them. Many a man has slipped into complacency and satisfaction by neglecting to review his behavior sincerely and critically.

As a pledge of XAE, your first and foremost duty will be to attain the highest scholastic average commensurate with your academic ability. If you fail in this endeavor, not only will you disappoint your parents, your friends and your Fraternity, but more importantly, you will be failing yourself.

We also require of you, as a test of your fraternity zeal and fidelity, that you have a sympathetic understanding and a comprehensive knowledge of the aims, ideals and history of the Fraternity which you seek to join.

THE PHOENIX

I now call your attention to THE PHOENIX, the pledge manual of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. You are encouraged to read it thoroughly, to memorize certain portions and to display a knowledge and understanding of it before the culmination of your pledgship. Sigma Alpha Epsilon has a glorious history, and by becoming familiar with it, we perpetuate the memories of those who have contributed to its progress.

You will learn the names of the members of the Supreme Council and the officers of Province (give name), and the names, locations and college affiliations of all the Chapters of XAE in this Province, the names and insignia of all Greek Letter Organizations on this campus, and the names of the principal officers of this University (or College).

A wise man has said, "I care not who writes the history of a people if you let me write their songs."

The aspirations, ideals and pleasant memories of Sigma Alpha Epsilon are embodied in its songs. Our Fraternity is known throughout the land as a singing Fraternity. You will be expected to learn the SAE songs used by this Chapter and to join in them on all occasions.

The Eminent Chronicler exhibits a copy of the Songbook.

E. Ch.: This is the Songbook of SAE. Make these songs a part of your fraternity life and of your memories of SAE.

Eminent Archon, the pledges have now been sufficiently and properly instructed in the heritage and traditions of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

The Eminent Archon raps twice. Members rise.

E. A.: Having been instructed in the nature, heritage and purposes of our Fraternity and in your duties as pledges to it, if there is any doubt in your mind as to your desire to become a pledge of Meat Rotu Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, speak now.

The Eminent Archon pauses one-half minute.

E. A.: Having no such doubt, raise your right hand, pronounce your name and repeat after me:

I, _____, conscious of the honor, of having been deemed worthy of becoming a candidate for Sigma Alpha Epsilon, solemnly swear, that I will never reveal by any means whatsoever, any of the ritual, or other secrets of the Fraternity, which have been disclosed to me, or which may be discovered, or communicated to me, at any time.

Prompted only, by the highest motives, I solemnly place myself, on probation to Sigma Alpha Epsilon; and I will do my utmost to attain and prove myself worthy, of the brotherhood in SAE.

I will not join, any organization, forbidden by the National Laws, of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, or by the laws of the collegiate institution, of which I am a student.

I will wear my pledge badge, at all appropriate times, and I will protect it, and the name it symbolizes, from every quarter whatsoever.

I will be loyal and true, to Sigma Alpha Epsilon. I will observe its teachings. I will be guided by its ideals. I will be governed by its rules of conduct, as long as they do not conflict, with my allegiance to my home, to my best self, and to my God.

E. A.: Now that you have been instructed in the nature of our Fraternity and bound to us by your solemn oath, I, the Eminent Archon of _____ Chapter do declare you formally pledged to Sigma Alpha Epsilon and in token thereof I invest you with the pledge grip and pledge badge feeling confident that you will bring to both honor and distinction during your period of probation.

At this point the Eminent Herald, who has been at the head of the line of pledges throughout the ceremony steps forward, takes the cushion of pledge badges from the table in front of the Eminent Archon and carries it to the first pledge. The Eminent Archon places a pledge badge on the lapel or the breast of each pledge in turn and exemplifies the pledge grip. On completion the Eminent Archon returns to his station.

E. A.: Gentlemen, I congratulate you on attaining this, the first formal step toward membership in our Fraternity. May it and all succeeding steps impress you with the spirit and dignity of our Order. May you ultimately attain membership and may your association with us prove always to be mutually happy and beneficial.

Brothers of Alpha Chapter, I present to you these new pledges, and speak for you, your earnest support that they may carry this pledgeship to a successful culmination, thereby becoming true and loyal Brothers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Here should follow general congratulations of the entire Chapter.

OPENING CEREMONY

This ceremony is to be used for opening every regular Chapter meeting or installation. If pledges, as is the case in many Chapters, attend the first part of the Chapter meeting, the opening ceremony is held as soon as the pledges are dismissed to go to their regular pledge meeting.

The Eminent Warden shall recognize every person entering the temple. Should he not recognize any person, he may challenge him and require such person to give the signs and passwords. No person shall enter the temple unrecognized, nor shall any but members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon be admitted. On special occasions, such as initiations and installations of officers, the Eminent Warden shall check membership prior to the opening of the meeting.

When the Chapter is assembled, and the members are seated, the Eminent Archon rises and addresses the Eminent Warden as follows:

Eminent Archon raps twice. Members rise.

Eminent Archon raps once. Members are seated.

OPENING CEREMONY

E.A.: Eminent Warden, is it your belief that all persons present are members in good standing of Sigma Alpha Epsilon?

E. W.: Such is my belief, Eminent Archon.

E. A.: Greeting then, Adelphoi, one and all, in the hands of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

MEANS: Greeting, Eminent Archon; greeting and prosperity to our beloved order.

E. A.: Adelphoi, be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.

MEANS: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brothers to dwell together in unity!

Roll Call.

After roll call, the Eminent Recorder notifies the Eminent Archon as to whether there is or is not a quorum. Should the latter be the case, the Eminent Archon so notifies the Chapter, and a vote is taken as to adjournment. If there is a quorum, the meeting continues as follows:

Eminent Archon raps twice. Members rise.

The members and the Eminent Archon salute each other simultaneously; the Eminent Archon raps once; the members are seated.

The Eminent Chaplain may now read a selection of verses from the Bible and offer prayer.

Any Brother, entering late, shall salute the Eminent Archon, and, upon being recognized, take his seat among the Brothers.

E. A.: Eminent Recorder, call the roll.

E. A.: ZAE (Spoken in low tone in Greek.)

CLOSING CEREMONY

This ceremony is to be used after every Chapter meeting or installation of officers.

At adjournment, the Eminent Archon raps three times and the Eminent Archon and members form the grip circle.

As soon as the Greek words have been spoken, the Song Leader should lead the Chapter in singing "Friends" and, if desired, may in addition lead the ΣΑΕ yell.

CLOSING CEREMONY

E. A.: Adelphei, may the bonds of fidelity and friendship, which we thus symbolize, grow firmer and stronger each day of our lives; may harmony and good feeling reign in our midst; may no discord ever mar our union but abiding under the branches of the Olive of Peace, let us cultivate in ourselves and in one another those noble and manly virtues which are most conducive to the welfare of our Order and the happiness of its members.

As we go out from the temple, let us remember that each day brings its trials and temptations, its joys and sorrows. Let us meet them in the spirit of that philosophy which our Order enjoins. Let us strive to draw closer together in the bonds of our Fraternity, and resolve to emulate its virtues and cherish its teachings, ever keeping the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.

Members: With shoulder firm to shoulder,
And hand fast clasped in hand,
Remain we Brothers ever
Of this our lasting band.

E. A.: ΣΑΕ (Spoken in low tone in Greek.)

CEREMONY FOR INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

This ceremony is always an integral part of a regular or special meeting, opened and closed with the formal ceremonies.

Roll call of newly elected officers, with title designation. Each officer, as his name is called, shall respond, and take his place before the altar.

CEREMONY FOR INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

E. A.: Eminent Recorder, call the roll of the newly elected officers of _____ Chapter, and let them appear before the altar, that they may be duly inducted into their several stations.

INSTALLING OFFICER: You have been duly elected to fill severally the offices designated by the roll call you have just heard.

The duties of your office are set forth in the National Laws of the Fraternity and in the By-Laws of _____ Chapter.

As you are about to enter upon the duties of your respective offices, bear in mind that upon you rests additional responsibility for the well-being and progress of the Chapter. The standing of this Chapter depends upon the energy and thoroughness with which you perform your work. Your example of loyalty and efficiency in the discharge of your duties will be an inspiration to those who come after you, to keep high the standards of _____ Chapter and enhance the prestige of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

In token of your acceptance of these responsibilities, raise your right hands, and repeat after me the oath of office:

OFFICERS: (Repeating after the Installing Officer) I do heretofore solemnly promise that I will faithfully discharge, to the best of my ability, the duties of my office, as set forth in the National Laws of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and in the By-Laws of _____ Chapter.

Installing Officer places upon the shoulders of each officer the robe bearing the insignia of his office.


Officers take their respective stations, and Chapter meeting continues.

INSTALLING OFFICER: I now declare you, _____, the Eminent Archon, you, _____, the Eminent Deputy Archon, you, _____, the Eminent Recorder, (etc.,) of _____ Chapter, duly elected and qualified, and invest you each with your robe of office, charging you to fulfill with due diligence the trust that you have assumed.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brothers of _____ Chapter, I present to you these officers, duly pledged to discharge, to the best of their ability, the duties to which you have elected them. I bespeak for them your hearty and earnest co-operation, that together we may seek to promote in this community and in this University (College) the cause of our beloved Fraternity.

THE INITIATION CEREMONY

NOTES:—

- a. When only one man is being initiated, use singular form of words in italics.
- b. Initiatory paraphernalia, officers and members are arranged in accordance with diagrams on pages 80 and 82.
- c. In addition to the gavel on the altar, the Eminent Archon should be provided with a sceptre or sword or pointer. The spear from the statue of Minerva may serve as a pointer.
- d. The light in the hall should be provided by the illuminated insignia and candles, supplemented by sufficient indirect lighting to give a soft effect, to enable the neophytes to see the faces of the officers and members of the Fraternity and to understand every detail of the initiation. The initiation hall should never be so dark as to suggest the possibility of unnatural proceedings.
- e. Visiting Brothers should be seated on the front row along-side the Eminent Chronicler, for here they will have the best opportunity to see and identify the neophytes.
- f. Seats in the rear of the hall should be left vacant for late-comers who should be permitted to enter only when the neophytes are facing the altar of the Eminent Archon.
- g. The ceremony should be performed from memory. Chapters are encouraged to maintain a continuing initiation team, the members of which will continue to perform their roles more than .
- h. In addition to their other duties the Scene Shifters are to be alert for all responses of members, and to lead in these responses.
- i. Throughout the ceremony the various songs to be sung will be rendered in such manner as the Chapter prefers.
- j. When the paraphernalia has been satisfactorily arranged, the officers are in their proper places, the Eminent Herald has notified the Eminent Archon that the neophytes are assembled at the door of the initiation hall and the members are seated, the Eminent Archon rises and addresses the Eminent Warden as follows:

THE INITIATION CEREMONY

Eminent Archon raps twice. Members rise.

The members and the Eminent Archon salute each other simultaneously.

Eminent Chaplain prays.

The Eminent Archon raps once, the members are seated.

E. A.: Eminent Warden, is it your belief that all persons present are members in good standing of Sigma Alpha Epsilon?

E. W.: Such is my belief. Eminent Archon.

RAP II

E. A.: Greeting then, Adelphoi, one and all in the bonds of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

MEMBERS: Greeting, Eminent Archon; greeting and prosperity to our beloved Order.

E. A.: Adelphoi, be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another.

MEMBERS: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brothers to dwell together in unity!

E. A.: ZAE (Spoken in low tones in Greek.)

IN P.

SINDES MOS ADELPHONE EMINOS

E. A.: Eminent Chaplain, lead us in a prayer appropriate for this occasion.

PAUSE I

The Eminent Herald leaves the temple. The Eminent Archon repeats twice. All stand.

—E. A.: (Rises) Adelphei, we have assembled at this time for the purpose of performing a most solemn and sacred ceremony. Those whom we have chosen to serve with us at the Altar of Friendship are about to be admitted to our noble Order and as *Members* of our Fraternity they may justly claim our brotherly regard and esteem. It is, then, extremely important that at the very outset we should impress them with the spiritual quality of our Order and the sacredness of the relationship which they are about to assume. Therefore, let us be quiet and orderly, as is well fitting the nature of the ceremony now to take place.

Eminent Warden, is all in readiness that we may proceed with the initiation?

E. W.: All is in readiness, Eminent Archon.

—E. A.: Eminent Herald, are you ready to perform the commission entrusted to your care?

E. H.: I am ready.

—E. A.: Then, I charge you, seek out those whom we have chosen to honor by electing them members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, that we may, with all due form and ceremony, initiate them into this our Brotherhood.

—E. A.: From these our mysteries, all ye profane, ye uninitiate, far off retire;
But Brothers round this mystic altar fire, within yourselves commune.
Let silence reign, and guards be placed around this sacred lane;
For hither led, some Neophytes draw near,
O'erwhelmed with dread and soul-distracting fear.
Adelphei, ere the stars' pale light shall wane,
Our love must be their comfort and their stay,
When fondest hopes be crushed and sorrows come,
When fortune frowns, and earthly tasks are done,
Friendship shall brighten the darkness of the way,
Till in Phi Alpha's morning bright, we gaze together on the perfect light.

At the last word, the Eminent Herald, accompanied by the Neophytes, shall knock three times at the temple door. The Eminent Warden should alert the Eminent Herald's knock in case the poem cannot be readily heard from the outside.

The Eminent Warden then opens the temple door partly, and sees the Eminent Herald is not alone.

E. W.: Who knocks?

E. H.: Adelpheos.

E. W.: Who is Adelpheos?

E. H.: A brother in Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

E. W.: Whence gained you this distinction?

E. H.: Through the wisdom of Minerva.

E. W.: Whence come these strangers?

E. H.: From the uninitiated many.

E. W.: What seek they here?

E. H.: Entrance to our noble Brotherhood.

E. W.: Have they considered well the step which they are about to take?

E. H.: It is my belief that they have.

E. W.: Eminent Archon, high and honored brother of our beloved Order, here stand some Neophytes in the sacred and solemn mysteries of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

E. A.: Who brings them hither?

E. W.: A brother of our Order.

E. A.: Then I charge you, admit them.

As the neophytes, who shall not at any time be blindfolded, enter the hall, the members, upon cue from the Eminent Archon, will cover their faces with up-raised arms. Members sitting parallel to the Eminent Recorder will use the right arm, and members sitting parallel to the Eminent Chronicler will use the left arm for this purpose. The Eminent Herald conducts the neophytes into the hall, past the station of the Eminent Chronicler and positions them before the Eminent Archon. The Eminent Warden brings up the rear. When in front of the Eminent Archon, the Eminent Herald is always on the left of the neophytes and the Eminent Warden on the right. [After the neophytes have been lined up in front of the altar to the satisfaction of the Eminent Archon, he will drop his arm and the members will do likewise. The Eminent Herald then speaks.]

Drop Arms

E. H.: Eminent Archon, I have duly performed the commission entrusted to me, and now present to you *these Neophytes* who have been formally pledged to Sigma Alpha Epsilon, have satisfactorily served a pledgeship in full accord and agreement with all National Laws and Chapter By-Laws and do at this moment meet every financial, scholastic, and moral requirement for initiation imposed by the By-Laws of _____ Chapter, the regulations of _____ College (University) and the National Laws of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

-E. A.: *Neophytes*, forasmuch as you are about to enter our noble Order, and assume the responsibilities which it will entail upon you, it becomes us to state in brief our creed and principles, that you may the more willingly subscribe to them when called upon to do so. We teach that man, forgetting self, should rise to higher duties, and acknowledge other laws than those of mere personal enjoyment. And in so doing, we strive to impress upon our members the necessity and practice of four virtues: Loyalty, Friendship, Honor, and Fraternity. With us you will find ready hands and willing hearts to aid you in all of your high aims and noble ambitions, to cheer you in your moments of despondency and gloom, and to share alike your joys and sorrows. Only be true to the obligations which you are about to take, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon will in turn be true to you.

Momentary pause.

The Eminent Archon raps once. Members are seated. At the sound of the gavel, the neophytes escorted by the Eminent Herald and the Eminent Warden, march in regular formation to the altar of the Eminent Recorder and stand facing it. In crowded quarters where an orderly procession is impossible, neophytes may execute a left face and stand facing the altar of the Eminent Recorder. While the neophytes are facing the Eminent Recorder a Right Front Scene Shifter (on the right side of the hall facing the front) moves the right half of the kneeling cushions into position before the altar.

-E. A.: With this understanding of the aims and ideals of our Order, do you wish to become members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity?

NEOPHYTES: I do.

-E. A.: Eminent Recorder, proceed to instruct *these neophytes* in the requirements of the National Laws.

E. R.: (Rises) *Neophytes*, come hither and give heed to the requirements of the National Laws.

Handwritten: R.A. 1

E. R.: Do you here in the sight of heaven and in the presence of these Brothers, without making the least mental reservation, solemnly declare that you will not reveal, or cause to be revealed, to any living soul, by words or actions, or by any means whatsoever, anything of the nature, design, mode of operation, or procedure of the Fraternity, or anything which at this time passes between its members and yourselves?

NEOPHYTES: I do.

E. R.: (Repeats from memory with feeling and clarity) Since man is a social being, and in his proper sphere only when associated with his fellow men, we believe that in proportion to his alienation from his own kind will be his disquietude and distance from the path marked out by the Beneficent Creator. The isolated individu-

al, whether savage or civilized, for the want of proper objects on which to bestow his affection, looks with distrust on all around him; but he who is bound by the ties of fraternal affection, though wandering in desert wilds, or cast on barren strands, or tossed on the heaving ocean's wave, feels that there are those who care for him, and their fond remembrance pours the balm of joy and consolation on his otherwise desponding heart. Knowing the beneficial effects that must necessarily flow from such associations, and believing that when properly conducted they must give rise to many and great advantages, by reason both of intellectual and moral cultivation, we form ourselves into a brotherly band, to be known as and called the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

But inasmuch as moral depravity is calculated to lessen our esteem for character, and believing that it will weaken and eventually destroy the bonds of friendship, and thereby seriously interfere with the objects and welfare of our Fraternity, we pledge ourselves to be strictly moral and upright in our intercourse with one another, and in our dealings with our fellow men, and in all of our transactions during life.

As the best means of accomplishing this end, we hold the following principles: "The objects of the Fraternity shall be to cultivate the morals and improve the intellectual facilities of its members; to surround each member with friends, whose care and duty it shall be to make him happy; and to provide him with brothers to whom he can turn for advice and assistance when needed."

To be admitted to membership in Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the candidate must be a man socially acceptable throughout the entire Fraternity and in full accord with the traditional social standards and original objectives of the founders of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, strictly moral, of gentlemanly deportment, of creditable intellectual ability and attainments, and a student of collegiate rank at the domicile of an established Chapter of the Fraternity. No one shall be admitted who is known to have been a member of another college fraternity, or whose character lacks these social qualities so necessary to the perpetuation of the most intimate friendship.

Any one possessing the qualities and qualifications herein set forth may, by the prescribed vote of the Chapter concerned, become a member.

Membership is for life, unless immoral conduct, scandalous offense against the laws of the college or of the land, divulging any secret or private matters of the Fraternity, union with another college fraternity, or other violation of the pledges given at the time of initiation, shall make expulsion necessary.

E. R. Do you promise that you will endeavor to conform with and carry out to the best of your ability, each and all of the provisions of the National Laws of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, just read in your hearing, and that you will cheerfully be governed by such rules and regulations as may be imposed by lawful authority in pursuance thereof?

NEOPHYTES: I do.

E. R.: Do you promise that you will not join or organize any other college fraternity, or other society, membership in which may be forbidden by the National Laws of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, by the laws of the collegiate institution of which you are a student, or by the By-Laws of the Chapter under whose jurisdiction you may be?

NEOPHYTES: I do.

E. R. Eminent Archon, high and honored Brother of our beloved Order, *these Neophytes have* now been sufficiently and properly instructed in the requirements of the National Laws.

† E. A.: Eminent Chronicler, then you may proceed.

The Eminent Chronicler rises. The neophytes remain standing in their places.

E. Ch.: *Neophytes*, come hither and give heed to the reading of the mystic scroll.

At the last word of the above command, the neophytes, escorted by the Eminent Herald and the Eminent Warden, march in regular order to the back of the hall and thence to the altar of the Eminent Chronicler and stand facing the latter. If the quarters are too small for an orderly procession, the neophytes may execute an about face and stand in their positions facing the altar of the Eminent Chronicler. The Eminent Chronicler preceded by the Eminent Warden carrying the water vessel, then performs the anointing ceremony by dipping each neophyte's finger tips in the water and touching the neophyte's lips and eyes with his moistened finger tips and saying,

While the neophytes are facing the Eminent Chronicler a Left Front Scene Shifter moves the left half of the kneeling cushions into position before the altar.

E. Ch.: May these hands be clean,
 These lips from guile be free,
 These eyes scorn base suspicion.

E. Ch.: Do you promise that you will so conduct yourself in all the affairs of life, in all its transactions and duties, as not to reflect adversely upon the good name of the Fraternity?

NEOPHYTES: I do.

E. Ch.: Do you promise that you will faithfully and promptly pay and discharge all financial obligations incumbent upon you as a member of the Fraternity, and until these obligations are fully met, you will consider them as debts of honor and of law and standing as preferred claims against you?

NEOPHYTES: I do.

The Eminent Chronicler now reads directly from the Mystic Scroll.

If objection is made, the proceedings shall be stopped and the Eminent Archon shall request the neophyte(s) to express openly the nature of the doubt. If the doubt can be resolved the initiation shall proceed; otherwise the neophyte(s) who made the objection(s) shall be asked to withdraw after having signed the following oath:

"I hereby promise and swear, pledging my honor as a gentleman, that I will never reveal or cause to be revealed to anyone any account or communication which has ever passed between myself and _____ Chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity."

The Eminent Herald then takes the left arm of the first neophyte, escorts him to the desk of the Eminent Chronicler and causes him to kneel. While the neophyte is signing the Eminent Herald moves to his right side. Meanwhile the Eminent Warden has moved behind the line of neophytes and has positioned himself to the left of the second neophyte. When the first neophyte has finished signing the Eminent Herald takes his right arm and escorts him, clockwise, behind the line to his original position. Simultaneously the Eminent Warden proceeds as above with the second neophyte. The same procedures are used for the other neophytes, the Eminent Herald and Eminent Warden alternating.

During the signing of the Mystic Scroll the song "Yours in the Bonds" will be rendered in such manner as the Chapter prefers. If the class is large the song should be postponed until there remain only two or three neophytes to sign, and then should continue until the signing is finished.

E. Ch.: To become a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, you will be required to pledge yourself to nothing that is not entirely and perfectly consistent with the character of a true man and a gentleman. Nevertheless, if there is still any doubt in your mind upon any point whatsoever, speak it now, for once you have entered you have entered forever. (Pause.) Having no such doubt, then sign here your full name, in token that you willingly and of your own accord enter into compact of brotherhood with us, the members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

The Song Leader leads in the singing.

At this point the audience may be dismissed with the pronouncement of the benediction by a minister or with a prayer by the Eminent Chaplain, or with the regular closing ceremony for a Chapter meeting.

E. Chaplain:

Pledge we now the mystic token
That our bond remains unbroken,
Firm and lasting as before.
Death may veil, but cannot sever,
Love still lives and lives forever,
Strong and constant as of yore.

Yonder, in Phi Alpha's dawning
Highest hopes and lustiest longing
Shall their full fruition find.
There with perfect bonds fraternal,
'Neath the All-seeing Eye Eternal
Love our hearts shall closer bind.

E. A.: Please stand and join in the singing of "Friends". (Song: Friends.)

E. A.: Life is sweet, but all who are born must die; and all who meet,
as surely, must part. Let us mourn, but not as those having no
hope. As we now bid farewell to Brother _____ let us
cherish his memory forever.

THE BURIAL CEREMONY

The Burial Ceremony may be used at the request or with the consent of the next of kin of the deceased Brother, and may be public or private. It is usually performed in addition to other services and may be held in a church, public building, Chapter house or home. In some instances where the deceased was a member of an active Chapter, the ceremony is performed just prior to the regular funeral service with only the active Chapter, alumni and family present. It is assumed that other observances of a religious nature will be conducted. Accordingly this ceremony is composed largely from the standpoint of the Fraternity.

If the ceremony is private, the opening service for the initiation is used down to the prayer of the Chaplain; and the closing service is used as for a regular Chapter meeting. If the ceremony is public, it begins and ends as prescribed herein.

The Song Leader leads in the singing. During the singing a floral offering may be made by two previously designated Brothers.

Each speaker comes forward in turn and speaks for a moment or two.

THE BURIAL CEREMONY

E. A.: With sorrowing hearts we are gathered here to express a lasting token of respect and affection for our deceased Brother _____
____ As we loved him in life, it is fitting that we should accord to him in death our fraternal regard and esteem.

Please rise while the Eminent Chaplain leads us in prayer.
(Prayer.)

E. A.: We will now join in the singing of "Violets" (Song: Violets.)

E. A.: Please be seated. We will now hear memorial tributes from the following persons who will speak without further introduction.
(Gives names of those to speak.)

(Memorial tributes.)

Without introduction a previously selected Brother sings "Longing" as a solo.

The designated Brother will offer a brief sermon on the memorial aspects of the Fraternity.

The Song Leader leads in the singing.

(Solo: Longing.)

E. A.: May we join in a moment of silent prayer

E. A.: Please be seated.

Brother _____ will now speak

(Memorial Remarks.)

E. A.: Blessed are the ties which bind our hearts in Brotherly love. Brotherly love is of God, and "everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God, for God is love. And now abideth faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love". May the memory of their good deeds and the examples of their noble lives be a lasting heritage throughout all succeeding generations.

E. A.: Will all please stand as we sing "Friends", and at the conclusion of the song will each of us exchange handclaps with another.
(Song: Friends.)

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon Memorial Service may be used at any special occasion of the Fraternity where it seems appropriate. It has become traditional that such a service be conducted at Province Conventions, Leadership Schools and some Founders Day gatherings. Furthermore, a Chapter may wish to honor the memory of a departed Brother in a special Chapter service. This suggested ceremony is adaptable to any of these circumstances, and may be modified to fit a given situation.

The Song Leader leads in the singing.

With all standing, an order of worship will be followed. Persons will have been previously designated to offer prayers and tributes.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

E. A.: Brothers (and guests), we are gathered together to pay tribute to those of our members who have joined the Chapter Eternal (since our last meeting). As we cherished them in life, it is only fitting that we accord them our brotherly regard and esteem at this time.

Will all please rise and remain standing.

We will now sing together our Fraternity song "Violets".
(Song: Violets.)

E. A.: A prayer for our Brothers of the Chapter Eternal. (Prayer.)

E. A.: Words to honor "The Faithful Departed". (Memorial and special tributes by Brothers speaking without further introduction.)

E. A.: A prayer that we may be faithful to their memories. (Prayer.)

E. A.: A prayer that we might make Sigma Alpha Epsilon a vehicle of service to those around us. (Prayer.)

E. A.: A prayer that we commit ourselves to the responsibilities of leadership in memory of those who have gone before. (Prayer.)

At the last word of the above command the neophytes, escorted by the Eminent Herald and the Eminent Warden, march to the front of the hall and stand facing the altar of the Eminent Archon. If the quarters are small, the neophytes may execute a left face and remain in their position in front of the altar of the Eminent Archon.

The Eminent Archon raps twice. Members rise, Neophytes kneel.

The Eminent Archon then administers the obligation. This should be done in a clear voice and in sufficiently short phrases that the neophytes understand every word and are able to repeat correctly. No attempt is made here to break the obligation into phrases since each Eminent Archon will naturally use phrases best suited to his own delivery.

E. Ch.: Eminent Archon, the neophytes have duly signed the mystic scroll.

X E. A.: Then let them again approach and kneel before the altar

E. A. Raise your right hand. ~~(Each neophyte raises his right hand.)~~
Say, "I" ~~(each neophyte says "I")~~ looking toward number one neophyte, "Pronounce your name" (each neophyte in turn pronounces his full name), "and repeat after me;" In the sight of God and in the presence of these Brothers, without any mental reservation whatsoever, solemnly swear and affirm that I will strive to advance the interests and promote the progress of the Fraternity by diligent application to and performance of duty by the cultivation of all that is noble and pure in man's nature and character, and by earnest endeavor to restrain the evil passions to which human nature is subject; and by all these means commend it to the favor of man.

I promise that I will endeavor to promote and maintain the highest standards of scholarship not only for myself but for all members of the Fraternity recognizing that such standards are held as reflections of character and individual worth which make possible the enjoyment of true and lasting friendship in the bonds of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

I promise that I will ever regard the members of the Fraternity with feelings of the most sincere friendship and that my conduct toward them shall be that which will justly claim for myself their brotherly regard and esteem.

I further bind myself that whenever any reflections shall be made in my hearing upon the character of any member of the Fraternity which I know or have reason to believe to be false I will deny them and treat their author with that manly indignation which he so justly deserves.

I also solemnly engage that when I know any enmity to exist between any members of the Fraternity I will use my influence to remove the same and to restore these Brothers to friendly relations and that if I am one of the estranged parties I will whenever consistent with the strictest principles of honor yield to the advice of my Brothers.

Each and all of these things I solemnly promise and swear, so help me God.

The Eminent Archon raps once. Members are seated. Neophytes rise and remain standing in their places or at a signal from the Eminent Archon may move backward three or four steps in order to get a better view of the initiatory paraphernalia now to be used.

The Eminent Preceptor, previously selected by the chapter or the appropriate committee thereof, is chosen for his ability as a ritualist. He may be a member of the active Chapter who has been prepared for this service since his own initiation in order to be available for several years or he may be an alumnus of outstanding ability. He should memorize his part of the initiation ceremony and speak with clarity and feeling.

E. A.: Eminent Preceptor, faithful and learned brother of our Order, instruct these neophytes in the meaning of the insignia of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

If a suitable Eminent Preceptor is not available, the Eminent Archon shall say:

The Coat-of-Arms is now illuminated and remains lighted throughout the ceremony. The Eminent Preceptor whose seat is at the left of the Eminent Archon, moves with pointer in hand before the coat-of-arms, and addresses the neophytes.

The Eminent Preceptor points with his sceptre or staff to the quarters of the Coat-of-Arms.

E. P. (or E.-A.): It now becomes my duty to instruct you in the meaning of the insignia of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

E. P. The Fraternity is symbolized by the emblem which is displayed before you. This is divided into four quarters. As Minerva, the Goddess of the Fraternity, is the spirit of heart virtue, which has four divisions, so we represent in the quarterings the cardinal virtues of our noble Order: Loyalty, Friendship, Honor and Fraternity.

In the first quarter, Loyalty is represented by three Greek crosses, whose color and background indicate the splendor and beauty of the virtue; they symbolize the trinity of qualities of which it is composed: determination, enthusiasm and perseverance. Loyalty never fails, it is never fickle, but clings to the object of its devotion with a constancy and fidelity which death itself cannot destroy.

There is but one way by which a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon can leave his Fraternity

The Eminent Preceptor pauses a moment during which three previously designated initiated members, seated in the front row near the altar, step up to the right side of the Eminent Preceptor several paces from the altar and in front of the neophytes. The expellee stands with head bowed, eyes downcast and a sorrowful expression on his face, with his arms folded behind his back. The two expellers, one on each side of the expellee, stand holding the arms of the expellee.

At the pronouncement of this sentence one of the expellers will remove the badge worn by the expellee and, walking slowly to the altar, hand it to the Eminent Archon. Then the two expellers conduct the expellee slowly and without show of force across the room between the altar and the neophytes, proceeding from the right of the Eminent Archon to his left and then to the back of the hall where they will be seated in three chairs previously reserved for them. The back door of the hall may be opened and closed—but not too loudly, lest the effect be spoiled—to indicate that the expellee has left the temple.

E. P.: Adelphoi, a Brother has broken his vows, disgraced his character, so that fraternity is to him but a name; no longer can we regard him with brotherly love and esteem. Our path lies clearly before us, and it becomes our duty to impose and execute the sentence which he deserves. Brothers, what shall that sentence be?

MEMBERS: He shall be expelled!

Psalm 134.

E. P.: This illustrates most forcefully the promptness with which the Fraternity will expel all unworthy and disloyal members. But for the Brother who continues faithful to the precepts and principles of our cherished Order there is reserved the tender ministrations of loving hands, and when death shall come to take him from our midst, his remains shall be carried by the strong arms of his sorrowing and afflicted Brothers to his final resting place, while the memory of his good deeds and the example of his noble life shall ever abide with us as a lasting heritage throughout all succeeding generations.

During the latter stage of the expulsion scene, the funeral bier has been arranged and exposed in the rear of the hall, with one of the members upon it to represent the Chapter Eternal, with candles at the head and foot and, if convenient, a wreath or vase of flowers upon it, and an illuminated representation of the Inescutcheon over it. The Eminent Chaplain stands behind the funeral bier. At the end of the foregoing speech, the Eminent Archon, followed by the Eminent Preceptor, the Honorary Officers, the Eminent Herald, the neophytes and the Eminent Warden march to the funeral bier. The other officers bring up the rear and stand behind the neophytes. If the gathering is small enough, all present should take part in the funeral procession. As the Eminent Preceptor finishes speaking the words "Mystic Circle", the Eminent Archon raps twice; the members rise and the Song Leader starts promptly the singing of the song "Nearer My God to Thee". The singing continues while the procession is forming and until all are standing before the funeral bier. Then as the singing fades into silence at the end of a verse, the Eminent Chaplain speaks, pointing at the appropriate time to the representation of the Inescutcheon.

Eminent Chaplain, make ready the final tribute of respect and affection to our Brother of the Chapter Eternal, that we may show these neophytes how we honor the memory of the faithful departed, and bemoan the loss of the Brother whom death claims from our Mystic Circle.

Neophytes

E. CHAPLAIN:

Pledge we now the mystic token
That our bond remains unbroken,
Firm and lasting as before.
Death may veil, but cannot sever,
Love still lives and lives forever,
Strong and constant, as of yore.

Yonder, in Phi Alpha's dawning,
Highest hopes and holiest longing
Shall their full fruition find.
There, with perfect bonds fraternal,
'Neath the All-seeing Eye Eternal,
Love our hearts shall closer bind.

At the end of the Eminent Chaplain's speech the song "Longing" is sung in such manner as the Chapter shall prefer, and is continued while the procession moves slowly back toward the altar and until all have resumed their former places. The Eminent Archon, at the end of a verse or chorus of "Longing", raps once and the members are seated.

As soon as the funeral procession is finished and the song ended, the Rear Scene Shifters should quickly and quietly place in the rear of the hall a small altar with a lamp on it, the two articles resembling as closely as possible the figures in the second quarter of the coat-of-arms. Over and slightly behind this altar two Brothers in robes exemplify the unguarded hand clasp. At this point this tableau of Friendship should be in readiness and the lamp lighted.

Momentary pause.

The Eminent Preceptor walks toward the altar of Friendship. The Eminent Herald and Eminent Warden cause the neophytes to face about.

E. P.: In the second quarter Friendship is represented. Purple upon immaculate ermine signifies the strength and purity of this virtue, and composes an appropriate setting for Friendship's sacred altar, where burns an eternal flame. As physically it is by the burning power of the air that the heat of flesh is sustained, so Minerva is spiritually the Goddess of all glowing virtues, the unconsuming fire and inner lamp of life, the fire of the heart.

E. P.: One of the first qualifications of a member of the Fraternity is that he shall be capable of making and keeping friends. The sacred tie of Friendship cannot be better symbolized than by the clasped hands of two loving and devoted brothers.

M. P. N.

Neophytes

E. P.: Draw near, then, and behold how beautiful is Friendship, observe how strong the tie of true fraternal love. The clasped hands before you are those of loyal Brothers, united in the bonds of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

MEMBERS: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brothers to dwell together in unity!

The Eminent Preceptor points to the lamp of learning.

E. P.: This is the sacred flame of Friendship.

MEMBERS: So may the sacred flame of Friendship be kindled now upon the altars of your hearts.

E. P.: May the sacred flame of brotherly love never cease with its genial warmth to strengthen your attachment for your Brothers. May the touch of a Brother's hand never fail to awaken in your breasts a growing sense of the solemn obligations of Friendship, and fill your hearts with undying zeal and devotion for your cherished Fraternity. (Song: *Friends*)

The song "Friends" and any other songs in the ceremony shall be rendered in such manner as the Chapter prefers.

At the conclusion of the song "Friends" the Eminent Preceptor walks back to the Coat-of-Arms, while the Eminent Herald and Eminent Warden cause the neophytes to again face the altar.

The Hand Claspers should hold their position until the Eminent Preceptor returns to the front of the hall and the neophytes are again facing the altar of the Eminent Archon.

Eminent Preceptor points to the third quarter of the Coat-of-Arms.

The song "Violets" is rendered in such manner as the Chapter prefers.

The Eminent Preceptor points to the fourth quarter of the Coat of Arms.

E. P.: In the third quarter Honor is represented. Drops of blood surround and lie beneath the fleur-de-lis, the symbol of the Greek iris, the family from which our flower, the violet, springs. (Song Violets)

E. P.: Eloquently these drops declare that with our life's blood we will guard unsullied the sacred trust reposed in us as loyal sons of Minerva.

As Minerva was at once the embodiment of wisdom and power among gods and goddesses, so she alone of them all maintained her purity; her heart was inaccessible to the fires of passion. She was the patroness of all useful arts, the preserver and protectress of the State, and of all that gives the State strength and prosperity. She created the olive tree, symbol of peace and plenty. Withal she is no weakling goddess, but in time of strife wears the armor of purity, carries the weapons of wisdom and knowledge, and both leads and protects her followers.

This, then, is your heritage. You henceforth are to be loyal sons of Minerva. Therefore, in all the transactions and duties of your college life, and in that larger life beyond the walls of your Alma Mater, prove yourselves always and under all circumstances to be honorable, courteous and high-minded gentlemen.

E. P.: The Phoenix in the fourth quarter, ever living, ever dying, yet failing never, growing eternally, is alone the adequate symbol of Fraternity. In their youth it calls its members; for a day it holds them to its bosom, then sends them to the world strong in its spirit and followed by its living eye.

Eminent Preceptor points to the other parts of the Coat-of-Arms as he speaks the following:

The Eminent Preceptor during the song should move back to the altar halfway between the Coat-of-Arms and the badge and face the neophytes.

The Eminent Archon raps twice with the gavel. Members rise.

In part it dies, as each elder man lays down life's task, yet, with each new youth it calls, it grows the stronger. Ever increasing in virility, it goes from strength to strength, presenting evidence of its eternity.

E. P. The purple border charged with twenty-two fleurs-de-lis of gold represents that faithful band of Brothers, our first Chapter, Mother Mu.

The flimulated cross of silver, uniting while separating the quartering of the shield, without beginning, without ending, repeats the thought "Eternity."

The casque with purple plumes and the crest surmounting the escutcheon, bespeak the nobility of our Fraternity, and the scroll beneath bears the name.

The inescutcheon represents Phi Alpha, our guiding motto (*Song: Hail to the Purple*).

E. P.: Having thus interpreted for you the symbolism and significance of this, our emblem, it becomes my duty to instruct you further in the unwritten forms of our Laws and Ritual.

For emphasis, the Eminent Preceptor pauses and repeats the entire sentence above.

The Greek phrase represented by the letters ΣΑΕ, and its English translation must be transmitted only by word of mouth; and neither shall be inserted here nor shall be written or printed anywhere, under any circumstances.

The members salute the Eminent Archon who returns the salute. The Eminent Archon raps once and the members are seated. The badge is illuminated.

For emphasis, the Eminent Preceptor pauses and repeats the Greek words above and their interpretation.

The Greek phrase, represented by the letters ΦΑ, and its English translation must also be transmitted only by word of mouth; and neither shall be inserted here nor shall be written nor printed anywhere, under any circumstances.

E. P.: The name of this Fraternity shall be Sigma Alpha Epsilon, which are the initial letters of the Greek phrase $\Sigma \alpha \epsilon \nu \tau \epsilon \rho \nu \alpha$ signifying $\Sigma \alpha \nu \tau \alpha \nu \epsilon \nu \tau \epsilon \rho \nu \alpha$

E. P.: The badge shall be rhombic, and its material gold. In the upper corner of the badge, arranged in a straight line, appear the Greek letters of our name, and immediately beneath the figures in our crest.

In the lower corner of the badge, upon a pure white background, and surrounded by an olive wreath, appear the Greek letters Phi Alpha, which are the initial letters of the first and last words of our guiding motto $\Sigma \alpha \nu \tau \alpha \nu \epsilon \nu \tau \epsilon \rho \nu \alpha$ signifying $\Sigma \alpha \nu \tau \alpha \nu \epsilon \nu \tau \epsilon \rho \nu \alpha$.

Eminent Preceptor points to the inescutcheon in the Coat-of-Arms.

The Eminent Preceptor moves back to the altar half way between the Coat-of-Arms and the hedge, and looks directly at the neophytes.

The Eminent Preceptor pauses and repeats the entire sentence above.

E. P. These words describe the illuminating and enlightening power of our goddess of wisdom. Her coming was like the rising of the sun.

She dispelled the mists of ignorance. As the sun at break of dawn rises in all its splendor upon a dark and silent earth, so truth breaks forth in unveiled brilliancy from the obscurity of prejudice and superstition, and shines ever more and more unto the perfect day.

The background of white, upon which rest the mystic letters, represents her immaculate purity. The olive wreath is the symbol of victory and the reward of high achievement with which she delights to crown her faithful and zealous disciples.

The lion, noble king of the forest, the ancient and traditional emblem of the strength and glory of our Fraternity, also represents as the most savage of wild beasts, the untamed passions of man. As Minerva holds him docile at her feet, so may you through wisdom learn to subdue the baser passions and instincts of your natures and attain that true nobility of character in which strength and virtue are united.

These insignia, therefore, are intended to remind you of these things: the power of truth; the need of purity in the pursuit of truth; and the reward which comes to those who seek the truth.

E. P.: Eminent Archon, I have now duly instructed these neophytes in the meaning of the insignia of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

This concludes the service of the Eminent Preceptor who now returns to his seat.

The Eminent Archon rises and speaks:

Rise

At this point a Rear Scene Shifter will rap loudly and slowly three times. At the end of the third rap the Eminent Herakl and Eminent Warden will step quickly two paces in front and to the left and right of the neophytes and face each other. The Eminent Archon resumes:

E. A.: When any member wishes to enter the temple, he shall signify his desire by three distinct raps upon the door.

E. A.: When the Eminent Warden shall ask—

E. W.: Who knocks?

E. A.: The member replies—

E. H.: Adelpkos

E. W.: Who is Adelpkos?

E. H.: A brother in Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

E. W.: Whence gained you this distinction?

E. H.: Through the wisdom of Minerva.

E. A.: Until these signs and passwords are given, no one shall be admitted.

Momentary pause.

Momentary pause.

The Eminent Archon, with the Eminent Warden on his left and the Eminent Herald on his right, proceeds to the first neophyte. The Eminent Archon removes a badge from the cushion (being held by the Eminent Warden) and pins it on the neophyte. He leaves the badge unfastened and extends the grip to the new member. The Eminent Archon then moves to the left to repeat the procedure with the next neophyte, while the Eminent Herald fastens the badge on the first and extends the grip. The procedure continues until all have received their badges. The Eminent Warden, Eminent Archon and Eminent Herald then return to the front of the altar and face the new members.

Now that you have subscribed to each and all the articles of the National Laws and Chapter By-Laws and have been instructed in the signs, passwords and precepts of our noble Order, I, the (Acting) Eminent Archon of _____ Chapter (your respective Chapters), do hereby declare you members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and endow you with all the honors, privileges and responsibilities of the Fraternity, and in token thereof extend to you the right hand of brotherhood and present you each a badge, feeling confident that if you wear it worthily, you will never regret having adopted it.

E. A.: In accepting the custody of this badge, do you promise that you will guard it carefully?

NEOPHYTES: I do.

E. A.: That you will be loyal to the principles for which it stands?

NEOPHYTES: I do.

E. A.: And that you will wear it as a constant reminder of your obligations and responsibilities as a member of the Fraternity?

NEOPHYTES: I do.

At this point the Eminent Herald and Eminent Warden advance and exemplify the grip, first unguarded and then guarded. They remain standing in this position facing each other as the Eminent Archon resumes:

The Eminent Archon, the Eminent Herald and the Eminent Warden now exemplify the salute.

At this point the Eminent Archon raps three times with the gavel. The officer sitting on the right of the Eminent Archon starts the first grip circle. All initiated members form this grip circle with the exception of necessary officers and a guardian at the door if one is used. The neophytes stand in their places inside the circle. The Eminent Warden advances to the altar and takes the pin cushion and lines up on the left hand side of the Eminent Archon, the Eminent Herald being on his right. These three officers standing within the grip circle face the neophytes.

E. A.: The members of the fraternity shall recognize each other by a grip of the hand, given in the following manner: x x x x x.

E. A.: Members may also recognize each other by a salute, given in the following manner: x x x x x.

Neophytes

E. A.: *Neophytes*, now soon to be addressed as *Brothers* and received into the full fellowship of our Order, you are standing for the first time in the presence of the grip circle of Sigma Alpha Epsilon which symbolizes, as our name implies, that we are united one with another in a bond of Brotherhood complete and everlasting.

May you never by thought, word or deed throughout your whole lives mar this perfect union, but abiding under the branches of the Olive of Peace may you find happiness in the sacred friendship which we thus typify; and when death shall come to take you from our midst, may you be received into that ever widening Mystic Circle of Brothers of the Chapter Eternal with your bond unbroken, firm and lasting as before.

The second grip circle is now immediately formed with the Eminent Archon starting it. The Eminent Warden returns the pin cushion to the altar. All officers and members step in quickly to introduce new brothers into the grip circle, instructing them in its formation. All persons present are now in the grip circle with the possible exception of the guardian at the door.

E. A.: As (acting or if present or past province or national officer gives title) Eminent Archon of _____ Chapter (Chapters) of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, I solemnly charge and admonish you to cherish the teachings of the Fraternity, to respect and obey her National Laws and the By-Laws of your Chapter (s), to guard well her honor and her interests, and finally to maintain her reputation and high standing by exemplary conduct throughout life.

E. A.: Adelphei, I take pleasure in presenting to you these Brothers into the sacred fellowship of our Order

MEMBERS: We welcome them to our hearts.

RA:

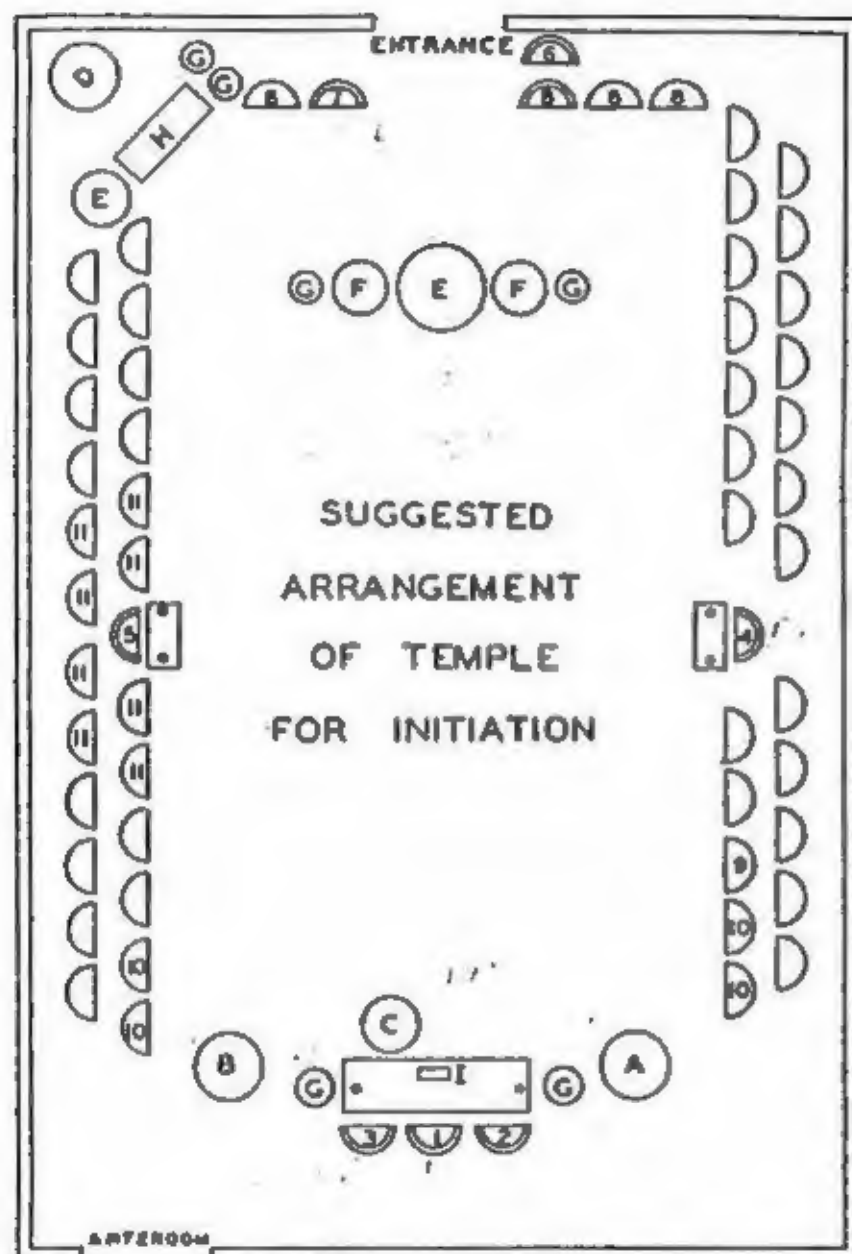
E. A.: Adelphei, may the bond of fidelity and friendship, which we thus symbolize, grow firmer and stronger each day of our lives; may harmony and good feeling reign in our midst, may no discord ever mar our union; but abiding under the branches of the Olive of Peace, let us cultivate in ourselves and in one another those noble and manly virtues which are most conducive to the welfare of our Order and the happiness of its members.

As we go out from the temple, let us remember that each day brings its trials and temptations, its joys and sorrows. Let us meet them in the spirit of that philosophy which our Order enjoins. Let us strive to draw closer together in the bonds of our Fraternity, and resolve to emulate its virtues and cherish its teachings, ever keeping the mity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.

MEMBERS: With shoullder firm to shoullder
And hand fast clasped in hand,
Remain we Brothers ever,
Of this our lasting band.

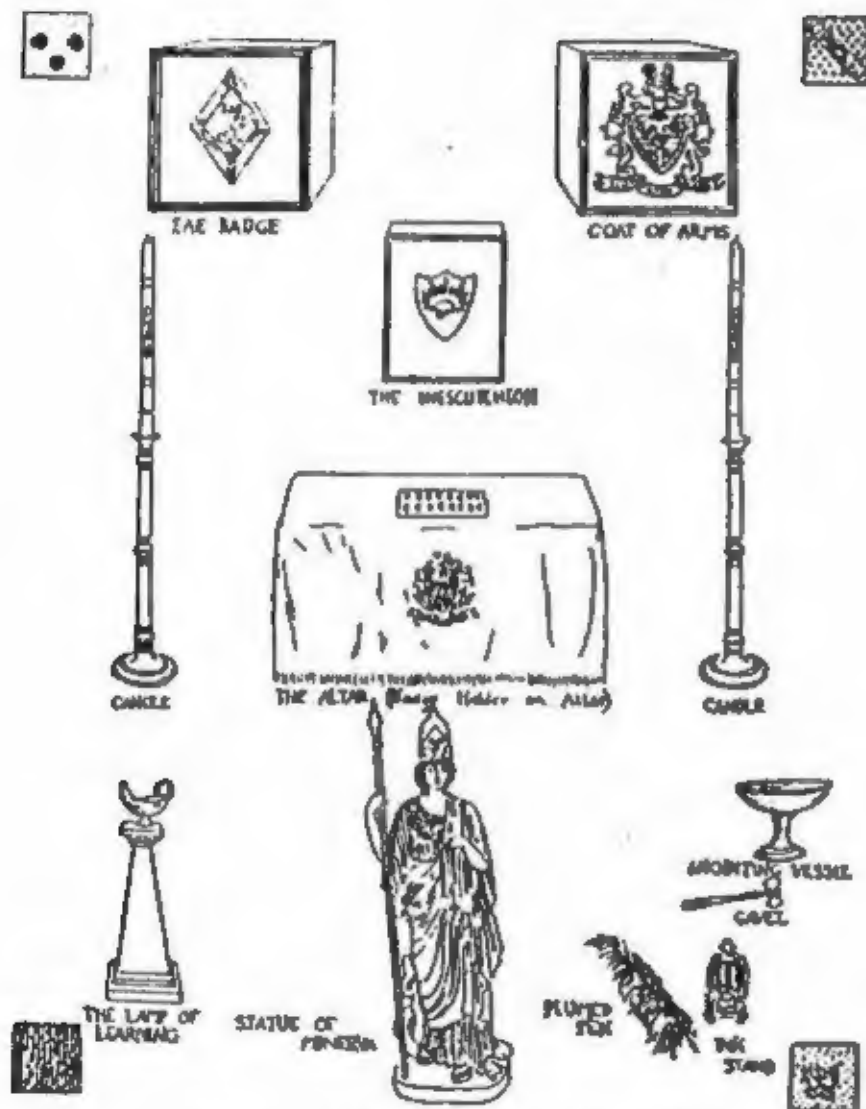
E. A.: ΣΑΕ (Spoken in low tone in Greek.)

As soon as the Greek words have been spoken, the Song Leader should lead the Chapter in singing "Friends", and if desired, may in addition lead the ΣΑΕ yell. After the song or yell the grip circle dissolves. The initiates remain standing in their places facing the inside. Members move counterclockwise to congratulate all the new members.



Suggested Arrangements of the Officers and Paraphernalia of the Initiation

1. The Eminent Archon of the Initiation.
2. An honorary officer of the initiation (a past or present E. A. of the Chapter or a visiting E. A. from another active Chapter).
3. The Eminent Preceptor of the Initiation, or an honorary officer of the initiation (a National or Province officer or local alumnus).
4. The Eminent Recorder of the Initiation.
5. The Eminent Chronicler of the Initiation.
6. The sophomore guardian at the door.
7. The Eminent Deputy Archon of the Chapter.
8. Rear Scene Shifters, Hand Claspers and other helpers in the work at the rear of the hall.
9. The song leader and conductor of the responses.
10. Front Scene Shifters.
11. Alumni.
- A. The Illuminated Crest (placed high enough for all to see).
- B. The Illuminated Badge (placed high enough for all to see).
- C. The Statue of Minerva.
- D. The Illuminated Phi Alpha (hanging high over the casket).
- E. The Altar of Friendship and Lamp of Learning.
- F. The Hand Claspers.
- G. The Floor Candles.
- II. The Casket.
- I. Pin Cushion.
- a. Table Candles.



Approved Items of Initiation Paraphernalia Which Every Chapter Collegiate Should Own.

Description of Robes for Officers of the Initiation

Eminent Archon—Robe, purple; drape, old gold.

Full Coat-of-Arms, including Phi Alpha but omitting the ribbon scroll and plumes. Grecian key design in purple on lower border of drape.

Past Eminent Archon—Robe, white; drape, purple.

Full Coat-of-Arms, including Phi Alpha but omitting the plumes. Grecian key design in white on lower border of drape.

Eminent Deputy Archon—Robe, green; drape, old gold.

Crest only, displayed within a shield.

Eminent Preceptor—Robe, gray; drape, old gold. Figure of Minerva with Lion couchant as on Badge.

Eminent Recorder—Robe, old gold; drape, purple.

Lamp and Pedestal in diagonal ribbon with shield border, similar to second quarter of coat-of-arms.

Eminent Treasurer—Robe, old gold; drape, purple.

Helmet within the shield border.

Eminent Correspondent—Robe, old gold; drape, purple.

Sun is displayed in the super-imposed center shield in the Coat-of-Arms.

Eminent Chronicler—Robe, old gold; drape, purple.

Fleur-de-lis, add drops of blood, within shield border. This taken from third quarter of the Coat-of-Arms.

Eminent Warden—Robe, gray; drape, green.

Three crosses within a shield, taken from first quarter of Coat-of-Arms.

Eminent Herald—Robe, gray; drape, green.

Burning Bird within a shield border as taken from the fourth quarter of Coat-of-Arms.

Eminent Chaplain—Robe, gray; drape, gray.

A white shield within a purple border and a silver gray cross dividing the shield into four quarters, same as is done in the complete Coat-of-Arms.

Altar Cloth—50" x 61" with complete large size Coat-of-Arms.

Worked in colored silks located so it will appear on the front panel when draped on a table; cloth of white with golden-yellow silk bullion fringe on front edge only.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon Memorial Service may be used at any special occasion of the Fraternity where it seems appropriate. It has become traditional that such a service be conducted at Province Conventions, Leadership Schools and some Founders Day gatherings. Furthermore, a Chapter may wish to honor the memory of a departed Brother in a special Chapter service. This suggested ceremony is adaptable to any of these circumstances, and may be modified to fit a given situation.

The Song Leader leads in the singing.

With all standing, an order of worship will be followed. Persons will have been previously designated to offer prayers and tributes.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

E. A.: Brothers (and guests), we are gathered together to pay tribute to those of our members who have joined the Chapter Eternal (since our last meeting). As we cherished them in life, it is only fitting that we accord them our brotherly regard and esteem at this time.

Will all please rise and remain standing.

We will now sing together our Fraternity song "Violets".
(Song: Violets.)

E. A.: A prayer for our Brothers of the Chapter Eternal. (Prayer.)

E. A.: Words to honor "The Faithful Departed". (Memorial and special tributes by Brothers speaking without further introduction.)

E. A.: A prayer that we may be faithful to their memories. (Prayer.)

E. A.: A prayer that we might make Sigma Alpha Epsilon a vehicle of service to those around us. (Prayer.)

E. A.: A prayer that we commit ourselves to the responsibilities of leadership in memory of those who have gone before. (Prayer.)